

feeding on alder in May/June. The second (autumn) generation, typical *falconipennella*, appears in late September/ October from larvae feeding in August/September.

Prior to 1993 I only once found the larva of *falconipennella* at Petts Wood despite persistent searching over several years. By contrast, larvae were fairly common every September from 1993 to 1995 both at Petts Wood and Bexley. It is evident that the species has become increasingly common over the past few years not only in north-west Kent but also in Berkshire where Ian Sims has found it in a number of localities. It is probable that *falconipennella* is always bivoltine but that this has only become apparent during a period of exceptional abundance; nevertheless, the possibility that the occurrence of two generations in Britain has been brought about by warm conditions in recent times cannot be ruled out.

References

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Notes on the Scarlet Tiger *Callimorpha dominula* (Linnaeus) (Lep.: Arctiidae) occurring on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire

During the evening of 22 June 1993 whilst my brother and I were running m.v. lights at Tilshead (SU0349) on Salisbury Plain we were rather surprised to find an extremely fresh *C. dominula* in one of the traps. Naturally there was some speculation as to where the specimen may have originated. At the time the nearest possible localities appeared to be not less than ten kilometres (six miles) to the east and fourteen kilometres (eight miles) to the south.

Some time later whilst in conversation with Mr Stephen Palmer, who at the time was still resident in Wiltshire, he informed me that he and John Langmaid had encountered a specimen near Shrewton Folly (SU097482) on 5 July 1987. This is the first recorded occurrence of *C. dominula* on the dry chalk of Salisbury Plain of which I am aware.

During the first week of April 1995 as I was passing Shrewton Folly (SU094484) my attention was taken by extremely attractive overhanging boughs of blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) in full bloom. I immediately thought that a session of beating the branches might reward me with a record of

larvae of the Sloe Pug *Chloroclystis chloerata* (Mab.). I was unsuccessful in that respect but was very surprised to beat out a single larva of *C. dominula*. It is, of course, interesting to note that this was very near to the locality mentioned above and as indicated by Stephen. One may speculate as to any other connections.

On 15 July 1995 my brother and I attended a field meeting of the Imber Ranges conservation group at Coulston Down (ST9550) and whilst sweeping over areas of typical downland flora I disturbed another specimen of *C. dominula*.

Although the above records are limited they do confirm that *C. dominula* has bred on the dry chalkland areas of Salisbury Plain and that specimens have been noted in very widely separated localities and may have been established (not confirmed) for several years. There may be other records of which I am unaware. This type of habitat is in considerable contrast to the usual waterside habitats normally associated with this species. The size of the training areas – 36,000 hectares (90,000 acres) – and in particular the restricted access, limits the amount of field-work that can be undertaken on this enormously rich area but in any case I would suspect that the species is at low density.

A few other notes may be of interest. Whilst in conversation with Mr Phil Cleverly from Devizes he informed me that on the outskirts of that town he has noted a colony of *C. dominula* on the chalk immediately above the greensand and on a seasonally wet flush. The population at this locality has been increasing dramatically with about 200 adults seen in 1995. On 30 June 1995 I discovered two specimens in my static trap at my home address in Trowbridge (ST861584). My garden and an area within a radius of about half a mile do not, to the best of my knowledge, contain habitat which would be normally associated with this species. I am not aware of a colony, now or historically, in the Trowbridge area but there are several locations which would appear to offer suitable habitat in the vicinity of the Kennet and Avon Canal. In addition Stephen informed me of four locations in typical habitat which have come to his notice, either from his own field-work or observations of others. When this information is combined with my own occasional observations around the county and a few other records which have come to my attention then even this limited information indicates that *C. dominula* is currently very well distributed within Wiltshire. As of the present the majority of records of *C. dominula* are associated with waterways, with a particular emphasis on those streams and rivers which drain from the chalk.

I would like to extend my thanks to Mr Stephen Palmer for full details of his observations made during field-work on Salisbury Plain and elsewhere and to Mr Phil Cleverly for his observations made at Devizes.— M.H. SMITH, 42 Bellefield Crescent, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8SR.